

The William Meirs House
Near Cream Ridge, Upper Freehold Township
Monmouth County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The William Meirs House
Near Cream Ridge, Upper Freehold Township
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Owner: William R. Meirs

Date of Erection: Original house ca. 1750; annex ca. 1825

Architect: Unknown

Builders: Michael Mount the owner 1756-1805, and
Apollo Meirs the owner 1813-1834

Present Condition: Very well maintained

Number of Stories: Two and garret and cellar

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - timber
frame, clapboard siding

Interior walls - lath and
plaster on studding

Roof - gable, metal roofing

Historical Data:

By a deed 19 November 1756, Richard Mount of Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County, conveyed to (his son) Michael Mount of the same place, "husbandman", a tract of land beginning at Rocky Brook at the lower corner of land formerly granted to the former by John Morford, extending down that brook to lands patented to Walter Benthall, thence east to a corner of lands of Thomas Mount, being part of the 1000 acres conveyed to said grantor by the heirs of William Dockwra, deceased, by their deed of 4 February 1725. The deed of 1756 above was not recorded until 23 December 1805, twelve days before the death of the grantee, Michael Mount. (a)

(a) Pedigree of Mount of Mon. Co., in Stillwell's Hist. and Genealog. Miscellany, Vol. 4, p. 114, publ. 1916.

Born in 1691, Richard Mount abovesaid died between 22 July and 11 August 1777 in Upper Freehold, confirmed the land conveyed in 1756 as above cited by devising to two of his sons, Michael Mount and Samuel Mount, and equal division of all his real estate after excepting "the land where I dwell", which latter tract he devised to the sons of his son Ezekiel Mount, deceased. (b)

Michael Mount, Sr., son and devisee of Richard Mount abovenamed, was born in 1720 and died 4 February 1805, having married Mary Forman, and built the older part of the house here considered. By his will of 1st February 1805, he devised to his son Michael Mount Jr. all the residue of his estate, real and personal, including this house, after certain other bequests made. The other children were Elizabeth B. 1756, Rebecca who married Samuel P. Forman and sold to Apollo Meirs 29 March 1814 a house devised to her by her said father, and Forman Mount.

Michael Mount Jr., the son and residuary legatee abovementioned, died intestate and Garret P. Wyckoff and Gilbert Hendrickson were appointed administrators in 1812. His children were Mary Ann who died single, Hannah who married George Howell and resided in Philadelphia, Jefferson of Boston, and Forman, 1802-1860. By deed of 20 October 1812, in foreclosure proceedings against Michael Mount, the sheriff of Monmouth County seized the property including the house and farm here considered, and conveyed it to Garret P. Wikoff of Upper Freehold for \$1239.12, describing it as being the 204 acres plantation there, extending some 2415 feet along the northwest side of "Burlington path", and back to Mine Brook swamp some 2046 feet, reciting the title from Michael Mount Sr. to Michael Mount Jr. by will as above cited.

(b) Abstracts of Wills 1771-1789, publ. in N.J. Archives, Vol. 5, p. 360

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Five months later, Garret P. Wykoff the administrator and grantee of this estate of Michael Mount Jr., with his wife Elizabeth gave a deed of 20 March 1813 to Apollo Meirs (c) of the same place, conveying the said 204 acre farm to him for \$10,200. Meirs who built the second and major unit of the house died in 1855 having conveyed this same farm previously to his son William Meirs by deed of 12 April 1834 for \$12,000, in which its bounds are described as beginning "at a stone in the road at Varmintown." The name of William Meirs is engraved on the door knocker. His will was proved in 1840.

By 17 September 1877, the property had come into possession of the heirs of George S. Meirs late of Upper Freehold, deceased, on which date Hannah Meirs Rue and her husband Robert C. Rue and William H. Meirs and wife Caroline, all of Upper Freehold, gave quitclaim deed of the same to Henry Meirs of same place; reciting the premises being same conveyed by Apollo Meirs as above cited.

And by March 1911, the same property had come into possession of Caroline M. Crawford and Elizabeth R. Cox, who with their respective husbands deeded it then to William H. Meirs of Upper Freehold Township, reciting the conveyance from Apollo Meirs as above stated.

Finally, by deed of 12 April 1923, said William H. Meirs of Upper Freehold, with wife Anna R., conveyed the property to William R. Meirs of same place, (the present owner and occupant at the time of our survey of the house, 1939) as one of

(c) Apollo Meirs, born 1765, only son of David and Martha (Swaim) Meirs, of a family of Scotch descent married 1st Unity Shinn, and 2nd Ann Burtis. By first wife the issue were 1. Martha m. Abraham Tilton, 2. John, 3. Thomas, and 4. David. By second wife the issue were 5. Sarah m. Daniel Tilton, 6. William, 7. Unity m. John Bruere, and 8. Charles. (Ellis Hist. of Monmouth County, 1885. p. 639)

two tracts, and as containing 214.15 acres on which the house stands.

Bibliography:

A search of Land and Probate records
of Monmouth County by Forrest Hargrove,
H.A.B.S. abstractor

Lewis D. Cook

Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

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